Get in touch
If any of our pictures bring back memories for you, let us know by emailing james.milner@reachplc.com

Princess Elizabeth and Lt Philip Mountbatten with wedding party on the balcony at Buckingham Palace
DAILY MIRROR

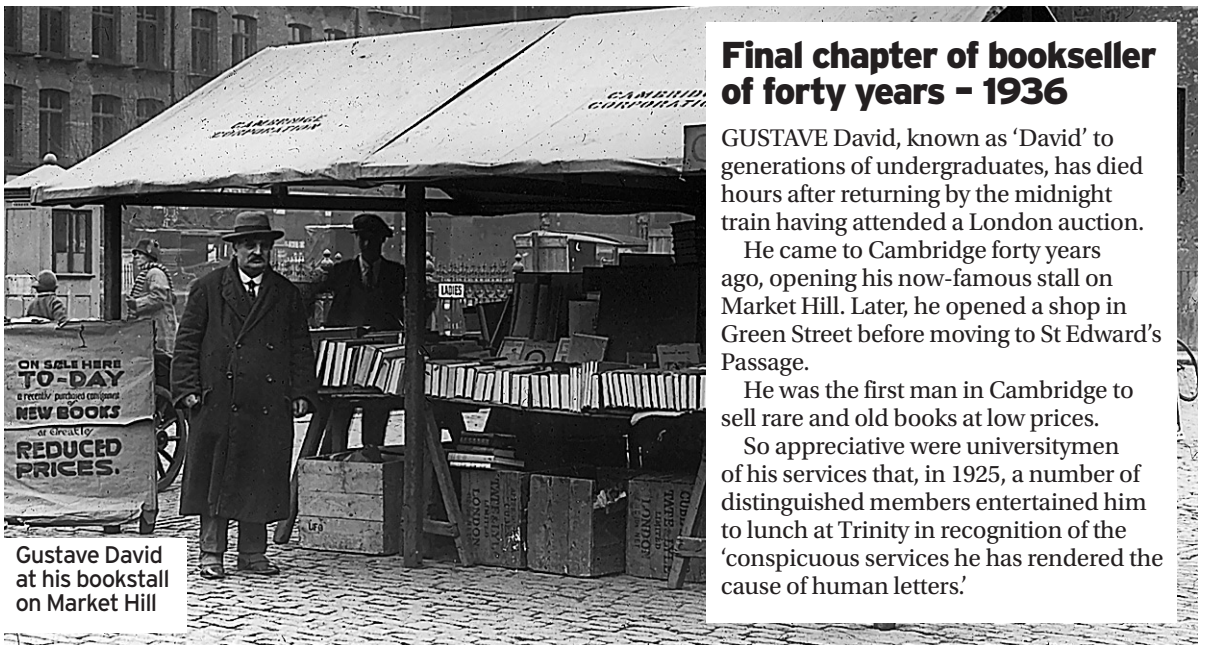
Cinemas thrown open for Royal Wedding – 1947

MANY people, unable to be in their homes, listened to the broadcast of the Royal Wedding in Cambridge cinemas, all of which were thrown open for the purpose, free of charge.

The biggest audience is reported from the Central Cinema which estimated the total as being in the neighbourhood of 500.

The sound equipment at The Regal broke down at the last minute and the small queue which had formed there was diverted to the New Theatre opposite, where a set had been hastily brought from his home and installed in the foyer by the manager and the thrilling, impressive and historic service of the wedding of HRH Princess Elizabeth, future Queen of England and Lieut Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, was heard by a number of people.

Messrs Miller and Sons, Sidney Street, to meet many requests from customers, televised the proceedings in one of their studios, which was packed.



Gustave David at his bookstall on Market Hill

Final chapter of bookseller of forty years – 1936

GUSTAVE David, known as 'David' to generations of undergraduates, has died hours after returning by the midnight train having attended a London auction.

He came to Cambridge forty years ago, opening his now-famous stall on Market Hill. Later, he opened a shop in Green Street before moving to St Edward's Passage.

He was the first man in Cambridge to sell rare and old books at low prices.

So appreciative were universitymen of his services that, in 1925, a number of distinguished members entertained him to lunch at Trinity in recognition of the 'conspicuous services he has rendered the cause of human letters.'

A two-horse omnibus in Cambridge

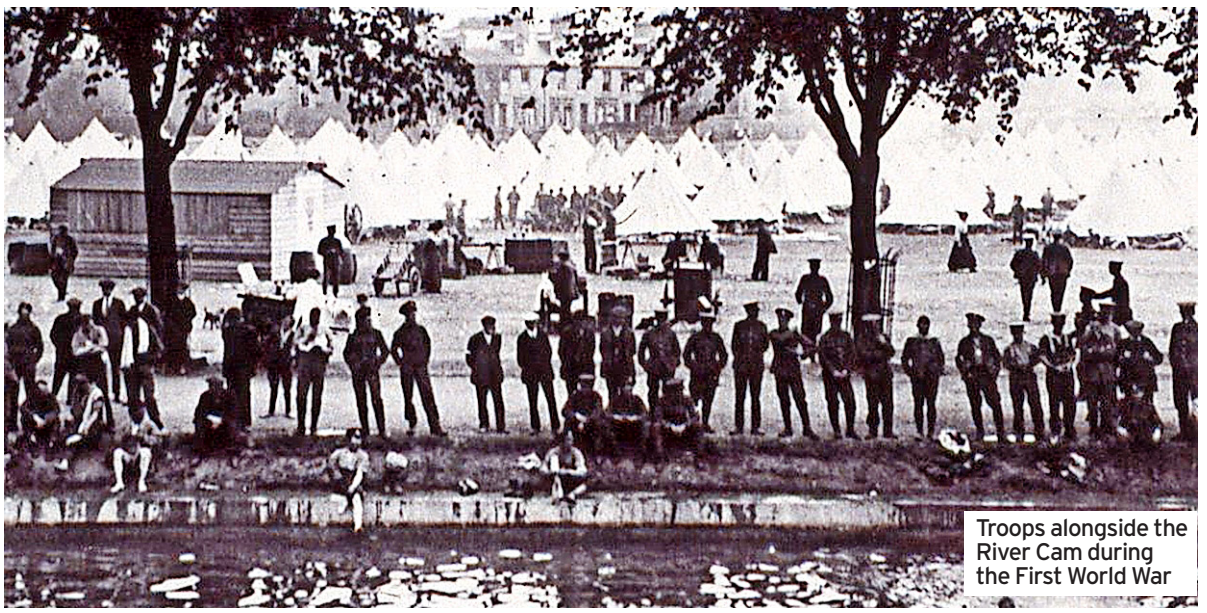
No one willing to take reins of horse bus – 1902

THE Cambridge Omnibus Company has been unable to find a purchaser for its business as a going concern and its horses, omnibuses, etc, had to be sold at its stables in Chesterton Road.

A two-horse omnibus to carry 26 passengers fitted with garden seats on the top sold for 20 guineas.

Buses by the 'Star Omnibus Company' were not in such good condition and realised £10 while others went for as low a sum as £4.10s.

The one-horse buses did not sell for much but a four-horse charabanc, 'The Cambridge Belle' sold for 62 guineas to Mr Ellis Merry. Prices for horses dropped to as low as three guineas.



Troops alongside the River Cam during the First World War

Pathologist makes polluted river palatable – 1914

THERE is no more potent cause of disease amongst soldiers than impure water.

When Cambridge became a mobilisation centre and the sixth division was camped along the Cam from Jesus Lock to the Pike & Eel, Sims Woodhouse, Prof of Pathology, took a bucketful of river water from a spot where the soldiers were bathing and washing their clothes and, by experiment, turned it into perfectly pure and palatable drinking water.

Even water polluted by corpses is made innocuous. It will be surprising if the whole army does not benefit by his research.

Anyone with German blood is in danger – 1914

PEOPLE in Shelford and Stapleford are worried about mysterious lights shining on the Gogs and are concerned that there are spies. But Dr Henry Bond says the light came from his house.

There is concrete in the foundations and the removal of the house might provide a base from which a German gun could demolish King's College Chapel.

He admits he speaks German and has had holidays there. But he is not a spy and honest folk are quite safe.

However, given the present alarm, nobody who has electric light in his house, a bottle of German wine in his cellar, or worst of all (like our Royal Family) German blood in his veins, will be safe.

'These village folk are not used to town' – 1928

SIR, I watched a Cambridge policeman on point duty outside Woolworth's and was struck by the smart way in which he held up, or signalled on, vehicles.

I saw him stop the traffic to allow a lady with a child in a pushchair to cross the road, lead a child over and pull to safety a woman who was in danger of being run down.

I asked him whether he often had to pull people out of danger and he told me: "These village folk are not used to town, and one has to expect such things."

M Bowyer